

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 01 Sept 2019 ..... Ephesians 1:1-14..... Rejoice
- 2) 08 Sept ..... Ephesians 1:15-23..... Remembered
- 3) 15 Sept ..... Ephesians 2:1-10..... Resurrected
- 4) 22 Sept ..... Ephesians 2:11-22..... Reconciled
- 5) 29 Sept ..... Ephesians 3:1-13..... Revealed
- 6) 06 Oct ..... Ephesians 3:14-21..... Residence
- 7) 13 Oct..... Ephesians 4:1-10..... **Walking Together**
- 8) 20 Oct ..... Ephesians 4:11-16..... Walking Forward
- 9) 27 Oct ..... Ephesians 4:17-32..... Walking Differently
- 10) 03 Nov ..... Ephesians 5:1-14..... Walking in Love
- 11) 10 Nov ..... Ephesians 5:15-21..... Walking Wisely
- 12) 17 Nov ..... Ephesians 5:22-6:4..... Walking as Family
- 13) 24 Nov ..... Ephesians 6:5-20..... Walking to Battle

**INTRODUCTION**

- How should we walk in the manner we are called in?
- ...and should we strive for unity at all costs?

Passage	Comments
Eph 4:1-2	<p><b>Walk Worthy of Our Calling (in other words, What Would Jesus Do, AND HOW Would He Do It?)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Be <b>humble</b> (no arrogance)</li> <li>• Be <b>gentle</b> (not a bull in a china shop)</li> <li>• Be <b>patient</b> (slow down and wait for others)</li> <li>• Be <b>tolerant</b> (allow others to make mistakes)</li> <li>• Be <b>loving</b> (treat people like your grandkids – they can do no wrong to you, &amp; others will know us by our love)</li> <li>• Be <b>diligent</b> (laziness/sloppiness are not in our mind)</li> <li>• <b>UNLESS</b>...there is sin in the camp, then tough love may be needed to protect the sheep, fix a severe problem, &amp; to seek unity, reconciliation, &amp; restoration                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Paul told the Corinthians to cast out the culprit who was sleeping with his stepmother ..... <a href="#">1Cor 5:1-2</a></li> <li>♦ Paul had to severely admonish Peter ..... <a href="#">Gal 2:11</a></li> <li>♦ Paul called the Galatians foolish ..... <a href="#">Gal 3:1</a></li> <li>♦ Paul called Corinthians a bunch of babies .. <a href="#">1Cor 3:1</a></li> <li>♦ James called his readers adulteresses ..... <a href="#">Jms 4:4</a></li> <li>♦ Even Jesus had to crack a whip, turn over a few tables, &amp; chase people out of church ... <a href="#">John 2:14-15</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• BUT for the most part, when dealing with brothers &amp; sisters in the Lord with all of our warts &amp; blemishes, we need to exercise loving humility, gentleness, patience, tolerance, &amp; other fruits of the Spirit ..... <a href="#">Gal 5:22-23</a></li> </ul>
4:3	<p><b>Protect the Unity of the Spirit</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remember, we are family; no matter what, we need to stick together and exercise the qualities noted above</li> <li>• When fellowship is broken between family members, who should be the first to seek reconciliation?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Cliché: “He that is in the Know is the First to Go”</li> <li>♦ BUT, there are exceptions:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Scripture is clear we need to avoid contentious, foolish, angry, and wicked or prodigal people</li> <li>2. Discernment is needed</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• AND, unity at all cost is not biblical                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ We do not compromise with evil intent</li> <li>♦ Higher priority exists to protect the sheep from harm and from false teachings</li> <li>♦ <b>Consider this.</b> Solomon wanted peace for Israel, so he married Pharaoh's daughter – a non-believer. That seemingly started his downhill slide. <a href="#">Deut 17:17</a></li> <li>♦ Does God want married people or holy people?</li> <li>♦ Does God want obedience or sacrifice?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• How do you restore unity in a church or family?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ <input type="checkbox"/> Lots of prayer &amp; fasting? <input type="checkbox"/> Sometimes you can't</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Passage	Comments
4:4-6	<p><b>Singleness of God's Family. We have...</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One body – one family, one race, one blood</li> <li>• One Spirit – singleness of purpose – to serve</li> <li>• One Hope – one goal → to win!</li> <li>• One Lord – one allegiance, not many</li> <li>• One Faith – there is only one way to win</li> <li>• One Baptism – we have a common experience</li> <li>• One God – He is the glue who holds us together</li> </ul>
4:7-8	<p><b>...BUT! – We Are Not Cookie-Cutter Christians</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• We are designed w/ uniqueness and individuality</li> <li>• We are gifted differently – not based on our capabilities or good looks, but on God's desires</li> <li>• How should we establish and maintain UNITY with such DIVERSITY amongst us?                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ We need to harness this unique power and let people exercise their gifts ..... <a href="#">Prov 22:6</a></li> <li>♦ AND don't be afraid of failures</li> <li>♦ <b>Examples:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some may have a heart to work with unwed mothers or ministry for fostering/adoption</li> <li>2. Other opportunities?</li> </ol> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4:9-10	<p><b>He who descended and ascended is Christ</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some take this literally that Christ descended to the physical lowest parts of the Earth where Hades (grk) or Sheol (Hebrew) is presumed to be                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ ...and while in Hades, Christ preached to the prisoners in prison, then led “captivity captive” – He took the paradise portion of Hades to Heaven <a href="#">Ps 68:18</a>; <a href="#">Lk 16:23</a>; <a href="#">Jn 3:13</a>; <a href="#">1Pet 3:19</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Others take this descending/ascending to be metaphorical of Christ leaving the splendor He had in Heaven to be totally humiliated on Earth, then ascending back to His glorious position</li> <li>• Eventually, Hades will be thrown in the permanent Lake of Fire (<a href="#">Rev 20:14</a>) or Gehenna, along with Satan (<a href="#">Rev 20:10</a>) &amp; others doomed for Hell (<a href="#">Rev 20:15</a>)</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- Since Christ made us the way we are, we should not complain or grumble since we are but clay in the Potter's hand
- He gifted us to function in unique ways – so use your gifts

**NEXT WEEK: Ephesians 4:11-16.** Apostles and prophets, evangelists and pastors/teachers are key to training us to win the lost, and maturing all into the spitting image of God's Son, Jesus

**SYMPHONY**

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus,  
 – ROMANS 15:5 NIV